

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 29, 2004, the Examiner objected to the specification, rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,077,601 ("Hatada et al") and rejected claims 1-4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,953,634 ("Nelson") in view of United States Patent No. 6,304,445 ("Bolleson"). Claims 5 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended, and claim 9 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, the applicant has corrected the minor typographical error. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

The Examiner's rejection of the claims is moot, as the applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter originally recited in claim 9.

The applicant has also amended claim 3 to correct a typographical error, and amended claim 5 to make it more easily readable, but has not changed the substance of the claim.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the amended claims and in light of the above remarks, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation would facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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